

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## Jobs to Ex-Servicemen

[English]

**Import Levy on Basmati Rice**

\*326. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Economic Community (EEC) have reduced or propose to reduce the import levy on basmati rice;

(b) if so, its impact on the import of Indian rice by the E.E.C. countries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the export of Indian rice to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The European Community has in place a concessional levy scheme whereby imports of basmati rice into the EEC member states are given a 25% concession on normal levy subject to a ceiling of 10,000 tonnes per annum. This concessional levy scheme which has been in place since 1986 was extended by the EC for a further period of five years in July, 1991.

(b) Since there has been no change in the EC import regime vis-a-vis basmati rice and the scheme will continue till July, 1996, no impact on the import of Indian basmati rice to the EC countries is expected.

(c) The import of basmati rice to the EC countries has been sustained by the exports of Indian producing and exporting community. The exports of Indian basmati rice to the EC countries have increased from approx. 18,000 tonnes in 1986 to 30,000 tonnes in 1990. This trend is expected to continue with the popularisation of Indian basmati rice amongst community consumers.

\*327. PROF. RAM KAPSE:  
SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA  
KHANDURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to augment the job opportunities for ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of officers and jawans who are yet to be given jobs as on December 31, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Government have taken various steps to provide employment to the ex-Servicemen. These, *inter alia*, comprise reservation of posts in the Central/State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings, relaxation in the maximum age limit for appointment to the reserved as well as unreserved posts and relaxation in the requisite qualifications for ex-Servicemen. To accelerate the pace of absorption of ex-Servicemen in civil jobs, Ecological Task Forces, consisting exclusively of ex-Servicemen, have been raised in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan. The Directorate General of Resettlement also sponsor ex-Servicemen for employment in Security Agencies, Coal Transport Companies etc. The monitoring cells in each Ministry/Department of the Central Government and in some of the State Govts supervise the implementation of the reservation policy. A variety of programmes are also conducted for providing training to enhance the skills/expertise of ex-Servicemen in various trades to improve their employability as well as self-employability.